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Testimony before the Human Services Committee, given on March 16, 2012

~~HB 5450~~, An Act Establishing a Basic Health Plan

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Submitted by: Keith Carter, The University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Student

Greetings Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Keith Carter and I am a student at the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work. I am here today to support HB 5450 An Act Establishing A Basic Health Program.

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to testify in support of HB 5450 An Act Establishing a Basic Health Program. I would also like to thank you for raising this bill because I feel affordable health insurance is important to everyone. This is especially true for the over 100,000 individuals that are working hard to survive without health insurance in an uncertain job market; a job market that in most cases either will not pay health insurance or enough for the employee to purchase health insurance. David, a neighbor of my in-laws, is a good solitary example of those individuals experiencing life without health insurance. David suffered a broken ankle about 10 years ago was unable to receive the proper medical care due to a lack of health insurance and now walks with a permanent limp. Just think, if his minimum wage job would have paid enough for him to afford health insurance or offered health insurance his situation would have been different. He could have received the medical attention necessary for his ankle to heal properly. But unfortunately, this was not the case and it is the reality that a lot of Americans have to face.

I often wonder how will our youth, the future leaders of this state and our country; survive without the proper Health Care due to their parents inability to pay high health insurance premiums. How can we forget about the future of our state and our country, allowing our future leaders to live without something as simple as a basic annual dental check-up, which could, in most cases, prevent a number of health issues? How do we as role models not lead by example, setting a precedent by standing up to ensure we are living up to our billing? Let's stand together as leaders ensuring the health of our future leaders and the people that they will represent!

Just think, David and others like him would not have to suffer anymore. They would, like many others, be afforded the opportunity to access the health services needed to ensure a healthy life style. Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and all members of the Human Services Committee, I would like to thank you. Thank you all for caring enough to ensure those individuals living under the poverty lines in the Great State of Connecticut are given the opportunity to live a healthy life due to the accessibility of affordable health insurance. Once again I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to speak in support of HB 5450 An Act Establishing a Basic Health Program.